

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). The Committee has been constituted to review all provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 including the section dealing with national security and to recommend suitable amendments. The Report is awaited.

Government Delegations sent Abroad

6163. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government delegations sent abroad during 1990-91; and

(b) the amount sanctioned for this purpose, delegation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Multinational Companies in Steel Sector

6164. SHRIM. RAMANNARAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel industry is making profits;

(b) whether the Government propose to allow multinational companies to enter the steel industry in India; and

(c) if so, the details and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Most of the primary producers are making profits. In the secondary steel sector, the position varies from unit to unit.

(b) and (c). In the new Industrial Policy, pig iron, ferro-alloys and sponge iron including pelletisation have been included in the list of high priority industries in order to encourage the growth of these industries. In respect of such industries there is a provision for automatic approval of investment upto 51% foreign equity provided the foreign equity covers the foreign exchange required for import of capital goods. So far as other industries in the iron and steel sector are concerned, prior approval of Government is required for foreign equity participation.

[Translation]

Bauxite Smelting Furnaces

6165. DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme to increase the capacity of bauxite smelting furnaces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for attaining self-sufficiency in regard to aluminium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). A proposal to increase the capacity of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has been initiated. The details are given below:—

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
Bauxite Mine	Million *TPY	2.4	4.8